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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 19 April 1987

The death of General Maxwell Davenport Taylor, former Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 19 April 1987, at Washington, DC, is announced with deep regret.

General Maxwell Taylor served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 30 June 1955 to 30 June 1959 and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1 October 1962 to 1 July 1964. These are the highest military offices attainable by an officer of the Army and the Armed Services.

Throughout his service in the United States Army, General Taylor's unerring judgment, outstanding leadership, and exceptional courage, proved of inestimable value to his country. His friends knew him as a man of exemplary integrity and a scholar. With his passing, the nation has lost a faithful servant—the United States Army, a commander of great stature.

General Taylor was born on 26 August 1901 in Keytesville, Missouri, the only child of a railroad attorney. He informed his parents at the age of 5 that he intended to go to the United States Military Academy. On 6 November 1918, he was appointed to the Academy. He graduated on 13 June 1922 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Corps of Engineers. He advanced through all of the grades and was promoted to the rank of general on 23 June 1953. He retired from active service on 1 July 1959; however, he was recalled to active duty and appointed as Military Representative of the President on 1 July 1961. He was sworn in as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1962 and served until his resignation on 1 July 1964. On 2 July, he was sworn in as Ambassador to Vietnam, a position in which he served until 1965. General Taylor served as a special consultant to the President and Chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board from 1965 to 1969, as well as President of the Institute of Defense Analysis from 1966 to 1969.

His first assignment was at Fort Humphreys, Virginia, as a student officer in the Engineer School. Upon completion of this course in February 1923, he was transferred to the 17th Engineers, Camp Meade, Maryland. In May 1923, he went to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, for duty with the 3d Engineers. During part of his tour in Hawaii he served as aide-de-camp to Major General William R. Smith, Commanding General of the Hawaiian Division and Schofield Barracks.

In June 1926, he returned to the United States and was stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington, with the 6th Engineers. He transferred to the Field Artillery in July 1926 and served with the 10th Field Artillery until June 1927. Through his recognized facility with languages, General Taylor drew several special

assignments. To perfect his skill, he sailed for Paris, France to study the French language in preparation for service at the United States Military Academy. Upon his return to the United States, General Taylor was assigned to the United States Military Academy serving first as an instructor of French, and subsequently as an assistant professor of Spanish.

Entering the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in August 1932, he attended the Battery Officer Course for 1 year and was then ordered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he attended the Command and General Staff College for 22 months. Following his graduation, he was stationed at the American Embassy in Tokyo where he studied the Japanese language. In September 1937, General Taylor was detached for duty at Peking, China, and served approximately 3 months as Assistant Military Attaché.

Upon his return to the United States, he attended the Army War College and 1 year later was selected to participate in a mission to Latin America which determined the military equipment needs of the Western hemispheric nations in view of the threat posed by Nazi Germany.

General Taylor assumed command of the 12th Artillery Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in December 1940. In July 1941, he was assigned to Washington, D.C., and served for a year in the military secretariat of the Army Chief of Staff, General George Catlett Marshall.

General Taylor was then transferred to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and became Chief of Staff, 82d Airborne Division. He was promoted to Brigadier General in December 1942, and assumed command of the 82d Airborne Division Artillery, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In this capacity, he personally assisted in the development of the first airborne divisions of the Army.

In March 1943, he deployed with the division overseas to participate in the operations in Sicily and Italy. Prior to the invasion of Italy, General Taylor was chosen for a daring mission behind enemy lines. The assault on Rome would divert German forces from the main invasion point at Salerno, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower agreed to commit the 82d Airborne Division. General Taylor and other officers had doubts about the Italian's ability to provide support for the division. To resolve the doubts, he was sent by British PT boat and Italian corvette behind enemy lines to Rome 24 hours ahead of the planned airborne operation and scheduled invasion. He determined that the landing would be a disaster and aborted it just as the first planes left the ground. General Eisenhower, in his *Crusade in Europe*, wrote, "The risks he ran were greater than I asked any other agent or emissary to undertake during the war—he carried weighty responsibilities and discharged them with unerring judgment, and every minute was in imminent danger of discovery and death." During the Italian campaign, General Taylor was

initially the senior United States member of the Allied Control Commission in contact with the Italian Government. In February 1944, he became Commanding General of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagle" Division, which he led in the airborne invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944 becoming the first American general to fight in France in World War II. The division participated in the airborne invasion of Holland (Operation MARKETGARDEN) on 17 September 1944 and the Campaigns of the Ardennes-Alsace in Central Europe during the final stages of World War II.

He returned to the United States for duty as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy in September 1945. He revised and updated the course of study by increasing the number of courses in the humanities and social studies. Taylor initiated an intercollegiate student forum which included civilian participants because he believed, "The cadets should not live in a mental cloister."

In February 1949, he was assigned to European Command Headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany, as Chief of Staff. With the termination of military government in Germany the following September, he became the first United States Commander, Berlin.

He was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Department of the Army, on 13 February 1951. On 1 August 1951, General Taylor became Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Administration of the Army.

On 11 February 1953, he succeeded General James A. Van Fleet as Commanding General, Eighth United States Army, in Korea. Under General Taylor's command, the Eighth Army engaged in the bitter fighting of the Chinese offensive in the last months of the war. When the armistice was signed on 27 July 1953, the United Nations troops stood well above the 38th Parallel.

Four historic post-armistice operations were carried out during his Korean service: LITTLE SWITCH in April 1953, a prisoner exchange in which 684 sick and wounded were returned to the UN; BIG SWITCH in August-September 1953, a POW exchange that returned 12,773 UN troops; OPERATION COMEBACK, the repatriation in January 1954 of 21,797 Chinese and North Koreans who renounced Communism; and OPERATION GLORY, the exchange in September 1954, of 4,176 UN and 13,543 Chinese Communist and North Korean bodies of personnel killed in combat.

Under General Taylor's supervision, the Republic of Korea's Army was built into a 20-division force, and plans were laid for a Republic of Korea Army reserve force of 10 divisions.

In November 1953, he initiated the Armed Forces Assistance to Korea Program, under which the Armed Forces extended material assistance to the people

of Korea in rebuilding their nation. Army supplies totaling \$20 million supported a program which became a major mission of the Eighth Army. By the time General Taylor left Korea, more than 1,200 separate projects were completed and another 750 begun. To improve the welfare of his own troops, General Taylor initiated a large-scale educational program in December 1953. By November 1954, nearly 18,000 personnel had improved their educational level.

General Taylor was placed in command of all ground forces in Japan, Okinawa, and Korea, effective 20 November 1954 when he took command of the combined staffs of the United States Army Force, Far East, and the Eighth United States Army. On 1 April 1955, he was designated Commander in Chief of both the Far East Command and the United Nations Command.

On 30 June 1955, General Taylor was sworn in as Chief of Staff, United States Army, remaining in that position until his retirement on 1 July 1959. During his tenure, General Taylor argued the Army's case against the "New Look" and massive retaliation doctrine, pushed for an increase in conventional forces to ensure a capability of flexible response, guided the transition to a "pentomic" concept, and directed Army participation in sensitive operations at Little Rock, Lebanon, Taiwan, and Berlin.

In September 1959, he became Chairman of the Board, Mexican Light and Power Company. General Taylor became President of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City in January 1961.

In April 1961, President Kennedy called Taylor to Washington to head the Cuba Study Group, charged with studying the Bay of Pigs debacle and making recommendations on policy relative to guerrilla warfare. On 1 July 1961, General Taylor was recalled to active duty and appointed Military Representative of the President. In this role, he led a mission to South Vietnam to recommend courses of action that the United States might pursue. His report recommended that a U.S. military presence in Vietnam should function primarily as a "logistical task force" and as an "emergency reserve in a military crisis."

On 1 October 1962, he was sworn in as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a position he held until his resignation on 1 July 1964. When the Cuban missile crisis erupted, General Taylor opposed the eventual strategy (a naval "quarantine") in favor of strikes that would destroy the missile sites in Cuba. Following the Kennedy assassination, Taylor stayed on as Chairman and took the lead in forming the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommendation that American efforts in Vietnam be twofold: "An intensified counterinsurgency campaign in the south and selective air and naval attacks against targets in North Vietnam." On 2 July 1964, President Johnson appointed Maxwell Taylor Ambassador to South Vietnam and gave him responsibility for the entire military program.

General Taylor firmly believed that nuclear conflict was both unthinkable and unlikely. He was convinced that the conflicts with which America would most likely be confronted would be "wars of national liberation." Such unconventional warfare, he believed, would require forces-in-being trained in counterinsurgency. Subsequent events have served more to confirm than to repudiate his judgment.

General Taylor was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross; the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal; the Purple Heart; World Wars I and II Victory Medals; the American Defense Service Medal with Foreign Service Clasp; the American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Arrowhead; one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star (for participation in the Sicily-Naples-Foggia, Normandy Rhineland, Ardennas-Alsace, and Center Europe Campaigns); the Army of Occupational Medal with "Germany" Clasp; the National Defense Service Medal; the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars; the Parachutist Badge; the Distinguished Unit Emblem with one Oak Leaf Cluster; and the United Nations Service Medal. His foreign decorations include the Belgian Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold; Belgian Order of the Crown with Palm, Grand Officer; Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm; Brazilian Order of Military Merit, degree of Grand Officer; British Honorary Knight Commander of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; British Honorary Companion of the Most Honorable Order of Bath (Military Division); British Distinguished Service Order; Colombian Order of Boyaca, degree of Grand Officer; Chinese Cloud and Banner Medal with Grand Cordon; Ethiopian Cordon of Trinity Medal with the Plaque; French Legion of Honor, grade of Commander; French Croix de Guerre with Palm; Greek Higher Commanders Cross of Our Order of George the First; Guatemalan Cross of Military Merit, First Class; Italian Order of Military Merit, degree of Grand Official; Italian Military Order of Italy, degree of Commander; Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, First Class; Korean Taeguk Distinguished Military Service Medal with Gold Star (First and Second Award); Mexican Order of Military Merit, First Class; Netherlands Military Order of the Williams, Fourth Class; Peruvian Military Order of Ayacucho, Grade of Commander; Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of Chief Commander; Thai Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand, First Class.

Honorary degrees conferred upon General Taylor included: Doctor of Engineering, New York University, 1946; Doctor of Laws, Bowdin College, 1948; University of Missouri, 1951; Williams College, 1952; Pennsylvania Military College, 1956; Trinity College, Yale, 1956; Phillips University, 1957; The Citadel, June 1959; Honorary Degrees, Lafayette College, 1956; Seoul University, 1958; University of Pittsburgh, 1962; University of Akron, 1966; Tarkio College, 1966; Norwich

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University, 1967; Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1968; Parsons College, 1970; and William Jewell College 1970.

General Taylor authored the following books: *The Uncertain Trumpet*, 1960; *Responsibility and Response*, 1967; *Swords and Plowshares*, 1972; and *Precarious Security*, 1976.

As a mark of respect to the memory of General Taylor, the national flag will be displayed at half staff on all installations under the control of the Department of the Army from day of death, April 19, 1987, until sunset on 23 April 1987.

The Commanding General, Military District of Washington, will render full military honors.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

R. L. DILWORTH
Brigadier General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

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